



# Labor Force

# Science and Engineering Labor Force

# **Technical Appendix**

NSB-2019-8 September 26, 2019

This publication is part of the *Science and Engineering Indicators* suite of reports. *Indicators* is a congressionally mandated report on the state of the U.S. science and engineering enterprise. It is policy relevant and policy neutral. *Indicators* is prepared under the guidance of the National Science Board by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, a federal statistical agency within the National Science Foundation. With the 2020 edition, *Indicators* is changing from a single report to a set of disaggregated and streamlined reports published on a rolling basis. Detailed data tables will continue to be available online.

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# **Technical Appendix**

# Data Used in the Science and Engineering Labor Force Report

The Science and Engineering Labor Force report uses a variety of data sources, including, but not limited to, the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR), Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), and Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS); the U.S Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS); the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); the Current Population Survey (CPS) sponsored jointly by the Census Bureau and BLS; and the U.S. Department of State Nonimmigrant Visa Statistics. Different sources cover different segments of the population and different levels of detail on the various topics (Table SA3-1). Although data collection methods and definitions can differ across surveys in ways that affect estimates, presenting data from different sources facilitates a more accurate and comprehensive picture of the very specialized S&E workforce. Long-term trends, international trends, and comparisons of S&E and non-S&E workers are discussed in the report when the suitable data are available.

#### TABLE SA3-1

### Major sources of data on the U.S. labor force

(Data sources and information)

Data source	Data collection/ sponsor agency	Data years	Information used in report	Respondent	Coverage
Occupational Employment Statistics (OES), https:// www.bls.gov/oes/	Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics	Through 2017	Worker occupation, salary, industry, employer location (national, state, metropolitan statistical area)	Employing organizations	All full-time and part-time wage and salary workers in nonfarm industries; does not cover self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms, household workers, or unpaid family workers
National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), https://www.nsf.gov/ statistics/srvygrads/	Department of Commerce, Census Bureau; National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation	Through 2017	Employment status, occupation, job characteristics (work activities, technical expertise), salary, detailed educational history, demographic characteristics	Individuals	Individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher in any field, including an oversample of individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher in an S&E or S&E-related field or with non-S&E degrees but working in an S&E or S&E-related occupation
Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR), https:// www.nsf.gov/statistics/ srvydoctoratework/	National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation	Through 2017	Employment status, occupation, job characteristics (work activities, technical expertise), salary, detailed educational history, demographic characteristics	Individuals	Individuals with U.Sawarded research doctorates (includes both U.S. and non-U.S. residents)
American Community Survey (ACS), https:// www.census.gov/ programs-surveys/acs/	Department of Commerce, Census Bureau	Through 2017	Employment status, occupation, educational attainment, demographic characteristics	Households	U.S. population
Current Population Survey (CPS), https:// www.census.gov/cps/, https://www.bls.gov/cps/	Department of Commerce, Census Bureau/Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics	Through 2017	Employment status, occupation	Households	Civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 or over

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# **NCSES Data**

The data from NCSES within National Science Foundation (NSF) provide detailed employment, education, and demographic information for adult scientists and engineers under age 76 residing in the United States. Scientists and engineers are defined as individuals who have a bachelor's level or higher degree in science and engineering (S&E) or S&E-related fields or who have a non-S&E degree at the bachelor's level or higher and are working in S&E or S&E-related occupations. Unless otherwise noted, the report uses the term *scientists and engineers* to refer to this broad definition and the term *scientists and engineers* to refer to the population with at least a bachelor's degree. The data available on scientists and engineers are collected by two large demographic and workforce surveys of individuals conducted by NCSES: the NSCG and SDR.

The NSCG and SDR provide the most comprehensive information about the size and characteristics of the S&E labor force. Because the NSCG covers the entire population of college graduates residing in the United States, this survey provides information on individuals educated or employed in S&E fields as well as those educated or employed in non-S&E fields. Whereas NSCG data cover the general college-educated population, the SDR data provide information on scientists and engineers who earned their research doctoral degree in a science, engineering, or health (SEH) field from a U.S. academic institution. The SDR is a biennial survey that has been conducted since 1973; it is a unique source of information on educational and occupational achievements and career movements of the nation's doctoral scientists and engineers. More information on the NSCG and SDR are available at https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvygrads/ and https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/.

# **Census Bureau Occupational Data**

The S&E Labor Force Report uses data from the Census Bureau to analyze the growth in the S&E workforce since 1960 and long-term unemployment trends. The types of occupations categorized as S&E have changed over time since 1960 as the economy has become more knowledge based and technological, and new occupations have been created as a result. See **Table SA3-2** for a list of the occupations included in each year analyzed in the report.

Similarly, occupation codes have changed when defining S&E workers for the purposes of analyzing long-term employment trends. **Table SA3-3** and **Table SA3-4** shows the names and codes of the occupations included in each year analyzed in the report.

TABLE SA3-2

### S&E occupations in the U.S. Census and American Community Survey: Various years

(List of S&E occupations)

Decennial Census, 1960	Decennial Census, 1970	Decennial Census, 1980, 1990	Decennial Census, 2000	American Community Survey, 2010, 2017
Biological, agricultural, and environmental life scientists				Biological, agricultural, and environmental life scientists
Agricultural scientists	Agricultural scientists	Agricultural and food scientists	Agricultural and food scientists	Agricultural and food scientists
Biological scientists	Biological scientists	Biological and life scientists	Biological scientists	Biological scientists
Foresters and conservationists	Foresters and conservationists	Forestry and conservation scientists	Conservation scientists and foresters	Conservation scientists and foresters
	Marine scientists			
		Medical scientists	Medical scientists	Medical scientists
				Life scientists, all other
Mathematical scientists				Computer and mathematical scientists
Mathematicians			Computer scientists and systems analysts	Computer and information research scientists
Statisticians and actuaries			Computer support specialists	Computer network architects
			Computer software engineers	Computer support specialists

# S&E occupations in the U.S. Census and American Community Survey: Various years

(List of S&E occupations)

Decennial Census, 1960	Decennial Census, 1970	Decennial Census, 1980, 1990	Decennial Census, 2000	American Community Survey, 2010, 2017
	Computer systems analysts	Computer systems analysts and scientists	Network and computer systems administrators	Computer systems analysts
			Database administrators	Database administrators
				Information security analysts
			Network systems and data communication analysts	Network and computer systems administrators
	Operations and systems researchers and analysts	Operations and systems researchers and analysts	Operations research analysts	Operations research analysts
				Software developers, applications and systems software
				Web developers
	Computer specialists nec			Computer occupations, all other
			Logisticians	Logisticians
	Mathematicians		Mathematicians	Mathematicians
	Statisticians	Statisticians	Statisticians	Statisticians
		Mathematical scientists nec	Miscellaneous mathematical science occupations, including mathematicians and statisticians	Miscellaneous mathematical science occupations
Physical scientists				Physical scientists
Chemists	Physicists and astronomers	Physicists and astronomers	Astronomers and physicists	Astronomers and physicists
Geologists and geophysicists	Atmospheric and space scientists	Atmospheric and space scientists	Atmospheric and space scientists	Atmospheric and space scientists
Physicists	Chemists	Chemists, except biochemists	Chemists and materials scientists	Chemists and materials scientists
Miscellaneous natural scientists	Geologists	Geologists and geodesists	Environmental scientists and geoscientists	Environmental scientists and geoscientists
	Life and physical scientists nec	Physical scientists nec	Physical scientists, all other	Physical scientists, all other
Social scientists				Social scientists
Economists	Economists	Economists	Economists	Economists
Psychologists	Psychologists	Psychologists	Psychologists	Psychologists
	Sociologists	Sociologists	Sociologists	Sociologists
	Political scientists		Market and survey researchers	Survey researchers
	Urban and regional planners	Urban planners	Urban and regional planners	Urban and regional planners
Miscellaneous social scientists	Social scientists nec	Social scientists nec	Miscellaneous social scientists, including sociologists	Miscellaneous social scientists and related workers
Engineers				Engineers
Aeronautical engineers	Aeronautical and astronautical engineers	Aerospace	Aerospace engineers	Aerospace engineers
Chemical engineers	Chemical engineers	Agricultural	Agricultural engineers	Agricultural engineers
Civil engineers	Civil engineers		Biomedical engineers	Biomedical engineers
Electrical engineers	Electrical end electronic engineers	Chemical	Chemical engineers	Chemical engineers
Industrial engineers	Industrial engineers	Civil	Civil engineers	Civil engineers
Mechanical engineers	Mechanical engineers		Computer hardware engineers	Computer hardware engineers

# S&E occupations in the U.S. Census and American Community Survey: Various years

(List of S&E occupations)

Decennial Census, 1960	Decennial Census, 1970	Decennial Census, 1980, 1990	Decennial Census, 2000	American Community Survey, 2010, 2017
Metallurgical engineers and metallurgists	Metallurgical and materials engineers	Electrical and electronic	Electrical and electronics engineers	Electrical engineers
Mining engineers	Mining engineers		Environmental engineers	Environmental engineers
		Industrial	Industrial engineers, including health and safety	Industrial engineers, including health and safety engineers
		Marine and naval architects		
		Marine engineers	Marine engineers	Marine engineers and naval architects
		Metallurgical and materials	Materials engineers	Materials engineers
		Mechanical	Mechanical engineers	Mechanical engineers
		Mining	Mining and geological engineers, including mining safety engineers	Mining and geological engineers, including mining safety engineers
		Nuclear	Nuclear engineers	Nuclear engineers
	Petroleum engineers	Petroleum	Petroleum, mining and geological engineers, including mining safety engineers	Petroleum engineers
Sales engineers	Sales engineers	Sales engineers	Sales engineers	Sales engineers
			Ship engineers	Ship engineers
Engineers nec	Engineers nec	Engineers nec	Miscellaneous engineers, including agricultural and biomedical	Engineers, all others

nec = not elsewhere classified.

# Source(s)

Census Bureau, Decennial Census, and the American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

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# TABLE SA3-3

# S&E occupations in the Current Population Survey: Various years

(List of S&E occupations)

1990-2002	2003-10	2011–17
		Logisticians
Computer systems analysts and scientists	Computer scientists and systems analysts	
		Computer and information research scientists
		Computer systems analysts
		Information security analysts
	Computer software engineers	Software developers, applications and systems software
		Web developers
	Computer support specialists	
		Computer support specialists
	Database administrators	Database administrators
	Network and computer systems administrators	Network and computer systems administrators

# S&E occupations in the Current Population Survey: Various years

(List of S&E occupations)

1990-2002	2003-10	2011–17
	Network systems and data communications analysts	Computer network architects
		Computer occupations, all other
	Mathematicians	Mathematicians
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	Operations research analysts	Operations research analysts
Statisticians	Statisticians	Statisticians
Mathematical scientists nec	Miscellaneous mathematical science occupations	Miscellaneous mathematical science occupations, including mathematicians and statisticians
Aerospace	Aerospace engineers	Aerospace engineers
Agricultural	Agricultural engineers	Agricultural engineers
	Biomedical engineers	Biomedical and agricultural engineers
Chemical	Chemical engineers	Chemical engineers
Civil	Civil engineers	Civil engineers
	Computer hardware engineers	Computer hardware engineers
Electrical and electronic	Electrical and electronic engineers	Electrical and electronics engineers
Industrial	Environmental engineers	Environmental engineers
	Industrial engineers, including health and safety	Industrial engineers, including health and safety
Marine and naval architects	Marine engineers and naval architects	Marine engineers and naval architects
Metallurgical and materials	Materials engineers	Materials engineers
Mechanical	Mechanical engineers	Mechanical engineers
Mining	Mining and geological engineers, including mining safety engineers	Mining and geological engineers, including mining safety engineers
Nuclear	Nuclear engineers	Nuclear engineers
Petroleum	Petroleum engineers	Petroleum, mining and geological engineers, including mining safety engineers
Engineers nec	Engineers, all other	Miscellaneous engineers, including nuclear engineers
Agricultural and food scientists	Agricultural and food scientists	Agricultural and food scientists
Biological and life scientists	Biological scientists	Biological scientists
Forestry and conservation scientists	Conservation scientists and foresters	Conservation scientists and foresters
Medical scientists	Medical scientists	Medical scientists, and life scientists, all other
	Life scientists, all other	Life scientists, all other
Physicists and astronomers	Astronomers and physicists	Astronomers and physicists
Atmospheric and space scientists	Atmospheric and space scientists	Atmospheric and space scientists
Chemists, except biochemists	Chemists and materials scientists	Chemists and materials scientists
Geologists and geodesists	Environmental scientists and geoscientists	Environmental scientists and geoscientists
Physical scientists nec	Physical scientists, all other	Physical scientists, all other
Economists	Economists	Economists
	Market and survey researchers	Survey researchers
Psychologists	Psychologists	Psychologists
Sociologists	Sociologists	Sociologists
<del></del>	Urban and regional planners	Urban and regional planners
Social scientists nec	Miscellaneous social scientists and related workers	Miscellaneous social scientists, including survey researchers and sociologists
	Social science research assistants	Social science research assistants
Sales engineers	Sales engineers	Sales engineers
	Ship engineers	Ship engineers

#### Source(s)

National Bureau of Economic Research, Merged Outgoing Rotation Group files (1990–2017); Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS).

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#### **TABLE SA3-4**

### S&E technicians and computer programmers occupations in the Current Population Survey: Various years

(List of S&E technician and computer programmer occupations)

1990-2002	2003-10	2011–17
Electrical and electronic technicians	Engineering technicians, except drafters	Engineering technicians, except drafters
Industrial engineering technicians		
Mechanical engineering technicians		
Engineering technicians nec	Geological and petroleum technicians	Geological and petroleum technicians, and nuclear technicians
Biological technicians	Biological technicians	Biological technicians
Chemical technicians	Chemical technicians	Chemical technicians
Science technicians nec	Other life, physical, and social science technicians	Other life, physical, and social science technicians
Computer programmers	Computer programmers	Computer programmers

#### Source(s)

National Bureau of Economic Research, Merged Outgoing Rotation Group files (1990–2017); Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS).

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# The Skilled Technical Workforce Data

We define the skilled technical workforce using a combination of occupation designations from NCSES and from work conducted on behalf of the National Academies Board on Science, Technology, and Economic Policy ("the Academies") for individuals whose educational attainment levels are less than a bachelor's degree. Jonathan Rothwell's 2015 publication "Defining Skilled Technical Work"—prepared for the Academies' project on "The Supply Chain for Middle-Skilled Jobs: Education, Training, and Certification Pathways," provides an approach to designating occupations that require significant scientific and technological expertise, but not necessarily a bachelor's level degree or higher. This section will briefly explain the approach used for the Academies' work and the NCSES occupations included in the definition used for the "Science and Engineering Labor Force" thematic report prepared for *Indicators 2020*.

Following the methodology of the Rothwell publication, this work uses skills-based data to identify occupations that rely upon workers with relatively high levels of scientific and technological skills and expertise. The U.S. Department of Labor sponsors data collected as part of the O\*NET program. The O\*NET program has created a content model capturing the distinguishing characteristics of an occupation and standardizing them into a measurable set of variables. Rothwell's analysis, as outlined in the paper, utilizes the O\*NET knowledge survey, which asks workers to rate the level of knowledge needed to perform their job across 33 distinct knowledge domains on a 1 to 7 scale. Using the O\*NET version 19.0 and 2014 OES data, this report defines the occupations of the skilled technical workforce (STW) at the Standard Occupation Codes (SOC) level. The Rothwell criteria for inclusion of an occupation in the STW was a knowledge score in technical fields of at least 4.50 and a minority of individuals in that occupation with an educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>2</sup>

Using the occupation designations from the Rothwell approach in combination with occupations designated by NCSES as S&E or S&E-related occupations, the report uses ACS public use microdata (PUMS) to measure the size of this workforce. A crosswalk was produced between the SOC codes to the ACS occupation codes to enable aggregation up to the ACS occupation codes. This crosswalk is based on a crosswalk between SOC and occupation codes provided by the Census Bureau. SOC codes that did not have entries in the O\*NET database were manually mapped to a similar field using the shared 5-digit codes. This resulted in multiple SOC codes being mapped to a single occupation code, so the OES employment data were used to create employment-weighted fractions of the O\*NET scores for each SOC code. Table SA3-5 provides a list of the STW occupations and the employment of the STW in each occupation.

### **TABLE SA3-5**

# Skilled technical workforce occupations and employment in the American Community Survey: 2017

#### (Number)

Occupation	Employment
All occupations	17,002,82
Architecture and engineering occupations	820,72
Aerospace engineers	14,81
Architects, except naval	16,34
Biomedical engineers	2,25
Chemical engineers	4,59
Civil engineers	40,53
Computer hardware engineers	10,14
Drafters	111,98
Electrical and electronics engineers	44,86
Engineering technicians, except drafters	282,72
Engineers, all other	98,11
Environmental engineers	3,17
Industrial engineers, including health and safety	58,09
Marine engineers and naval architects	3,38
Materials engineers	9,02
Mechanical engineers	57,15
Petroleum engineers	6,22
Surveying and mapping technicians	50,95
Surveyors, cartographers, and photogrammetrists	6,33
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	172,07
Broadcast and sound engineering technicians and radio operators	60,54
Photographers	75,54
Technical writers	14,35
Television, video, and motion picture camera operators and editors	21,62
Business and financial operations occupations	251,41
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	35,68
Logisticians	75,03
Tax examiners and collectors, and revenue agents	25,11
Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products	115,58
Computer and mathematical occupations	1,322,37
Actuaries	29
Computer and information research scientists	61
Computer network architects	44,69
Computer occupations, all other	292,35
Computer programmers	99,08
Computer support specialists	322,8
Computer systems analysts	131,08
Database administrators	30,62
Information security analysts	29,47

# Skilled technical workforce occupations and employment in the American Community Survey: 2017

(Number)

Occupation	Employment
Miscellaneous mathematical science occupations	4,93
Network and computer systems administrators	85,40
Operations research analysts	35,7°
Software developers, applications and systems software	190,2
Web developers	55,0
Construction and extraction occupations	3,552,5
Boilermakers	13,6
Brickmasons, blockmasons, and stonemasons	133,4
Carpenters	1,073,3
Construction and building inspectors	64,1
Derrick, rotary drill, and service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	23,8
Drywall installers, ceiling tile installers, and tapers	128,3
Earth drillers, except oil and gas	20,7
Electricians	704,9
Elevator installers and repairers	20,2
First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers	729,4
Glaziers	39,1
Mining machine operators	47,3
Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	503,3
Structural iron and steel workers	50,6
Food preparation and serving related occupations	347,6
Chefs and head cooks	347,6
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	3,482,3
Audiologists	9,402,0
Chiropractors	2,1
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	152,2
Dental hygienists	115,4
Diagnostic related technologists and technicians	245,2
Dietitians and nutritionists	245,4
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	139,4
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners, all other	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	5,5
Health practitioner support technologists and technicians  Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	418,4
·	749,0
Medical records and health information technicians	144,7
Miscellaneous health technologists and technicians	91,!
Nurse anesthetists	2,7
Nurse practitioners	4,6
Occupational therapists	6,8
Opticians, dispensing	46,8
Other healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	45,7
Pharmacists	6,5
Physical therapists	11,1
Physician assistants	5,8
Physicians and surgeons	5,6
Radiation therapists	9,
Recreational therapists	2,:
Registered nurses	1,143,8
Respiratory therapists	71,6
Speech-language pathologists	2,6
Therapists, all other	28,1

# Skilled technical workforce occupations and employment in the American Community Survey: 2017

(Number)

ccupation	Employment
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	3,342,3
Aircraft mechanics and service technicians	145,1
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	719,1
Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists	254,3
Computer, automated teller, and office machine repairers	115,0
Electric motor, power tool, and related repairers	19,3
Electrical and electronics repairers, industrial and utility	11,4
Electronic equipment installers and repairers, motor vehicles	5,9
Electronic home entertainment equipment installers and repairers	31,1
First-line supervisors of mechanics, installers, and repairers	222,4
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	352,3
Heavy vehicle and mobile equipment service technicians and mechanics	178,0
Industrial and refractory machinery mechanics	330,0
Locksmiths and safe repairers	22,
Maintenance and repair workers, general	450,
Maintenance workers, machinery	20,
Millwrights	34,
Other installation, maintenance, and repair workers	222,
Precision instrument and equipment repairers	47,
Radio and telecommunications equipment installers and repairers	111,
Riggers	11,
Small engine mechanics	36,
Life, physical, and social science occupations	176,
Agricultural and food science technicians	22,
Atmospheric and space scientists	1,
<u> </u>	
Biological technicians  Chemical technicians	9,
Chemists and materials scientists	5,
Geological and petroleum technicians	12,
Medical scientists	2,
Miscellaneous life, physical, and social science technicians	75,
Miscellaneous social scientists and related workers	5,
Urban and regional planners	2,
Management occupations	451,
Architectural and engineering managers	26,
Computer and information systems managers	159,
Medical and health services managers	264,
Natural sciences managers	1,
Material moving occupations	71,
Crane and tower operators	53,
Pumping station operators	17,
Office and administrative support occupations	78,
Computer operators	53,
Office machine operators, except computer	25,
Personal care and service occupations	23,
Morticians, undertakers, and funeral directors	23,
Production occupations	2,637,
Aircraft structure, surfaces, rigging, and systems assemblers	7,
Bakers	166,9
Computer control programmers and operators	82,0

# Skilled technical workforce occupations and employment in the American Community Survey: 2017

### (Number)

Occupation	Employment
Engine and other machine assemblers	7,729
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	735,137
Furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders	8,640
Machinists	312,964
Miscellaneous plant and system operators	41,599
Prepress technicians and workers	21,074
Production workers, all other	1,042,583
Stationary engineers and boiler operators	66,260
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	23,203
Tool and die makers	48,86
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	73,26
Protective service occupations	208,45
Firefighters	208,45
Sales and related occupations	10,310
Sales engineers	10,310
Transportation occupations	53,710
Sailors and marine oilers	20,224
Transportation inspectors	33,492

# Note(s)

The American Community Survey does not cover employment among self-employed workers and employment in private households. Employment estimates are of employed individuals aged 25 and older. Values do not include those employed in military occupations.

### Source(s)

Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2017, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

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# Notes

- 1 The Rothwell publication can be found at http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga\_167744.pdf.
- 2 OES employment data as published may have aggregations or suppressions. SOC codes that appear in the OES data but not the O\*NET data were assigned imputed knowledge and education scores based on the mean of the values assigned to matching 5-digit codes. If matching 5-digit codes were not available, matching 4-digit codes were used.
- 3 This follows Rothwell's method of imputation between 5- and 6-digit categories (see page 9 of http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/pgasite/documents/webpage/pga\_167744.pdf).